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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,806	03/23/2004	Toshiyuki Hata	393032044800	4396

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EXAMINER

WORKU, NEGUSSIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/27/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,806

Applicant(s)

HATA, TOSHIYUKI

Examiner

NEGUSSIE WORKU

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/23/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a replay to the application filed on 03/23/04, in which, claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are independent. Claims 2-4 are dependent.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/23/04, have been reviewed. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The claimed invention lacks patentable utility. Regarding to claim 6, having a process completed program step, but lacks utility, wherein " a program for causing a computer to image processing method" examiner suggests to replaced by "a computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable instructions to execute an image processing method".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claims 2-4, are not cleared if the claims are part of the claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-6 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 1-4 are allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an input device that inputs image signals for a plurality of channels; a storage device that stores a plurality of kinds of procedures for processing to be performed on the image signals; an operating element that specifies at least two kinds of procedures among the plurality of kinds of procedures stored in said storage device, and enables the specified procedures and at least one procedure between the specified procedures to be arbitrarily changed and specified; and a processing device operable when the procedure between the specified procedures is specified using said operating element, to generate the specified procedure by interpolating the specified procedures, and carry out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for

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the plurality of channels input by said input device according to the generated specified procedure.

Claim 5 is allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method comprising the steps of: storing a plurality of kinds of procedures for processing to be performed on image signals; when an operating element that specifies at least two kinds of procedures among the stored plurality of kinds of procedures, and enables the specified procedures and at least one procedure between the specified procedures to be arbitrarily changed and specified specifies the procedure between the specified procedures, generating the specified procedure by interpolating the specified procedures, and carrying out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by an input device according to the generated specified procedure.

Claims 6 are allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests storing a plurality of kinds of procedures for processing to be performed on image signals; when an operating element that specifies at least two kinds of procedures among the stored plurality of kinds of procedures, and enables the specified procedures and at least one procedure between the specified procedures to be arbitrarily changed and specified specifies the procedure between the specified procedures, generating the specified procedure by interpolating the specified

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procedures, and carrying out real-time processing on at least one image signal for at least one corresponding channel among the image signals for the plurality of channels input by an input device according to the generated specified procedure.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NEGUSSIE WORKU whose telephone number is (571)272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Negussie Worku
Examiner
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